

Tense Switchers Answer Key

1. Past: She **was** studying for the exam.
Future: She **will be** studying for the exam.
2. Past: They **were** playing soccer after school.
Future: They **will be** playing soccer after school.
3. Past: He **had** finished his homework.
Future: He **will have** finished his homework.
4. Past: The explorers **were** climbing the mountain.
Future: The explorers **will be** climbing the mountain.
5. Past: She **could** find the hidden treasure.
Future: She **will be able to** find the hidden treasure. (Note: Modal "can" shifts to "could" in past and "will be able to" in future.)
6. Past: We **had to** follow the map carefully.
Future: We **will have to** follow the map carefully.
7. Past: He **was** sailing across the ocean.
Future: He **will be** sailing across the ocean.

Teacher Notes:

- Stress that helping verbs **signal tense shifts** clearly (*is → was → will be; have → had → will have*).
- Modals need special treatment: *can → could → will be able to, must → had to → will have to*.
- For younger learners, keep answers simple (*will fix* instead of *will do fix*). For advanced learners, allow extended forms to show auxiliary use.
- Extension idea: Give students plain sentences without helping verbs (e.g., *She walks to school*) and ask them to expand them into all three tenses with helping verbs.